

The Plantlife of Ratho

Potentilla, Fragaria, Agrimonia, Geum • 2021-03-19

Potentilla

Silverweed - Common

In the wind it shows the silvery backs of its leaves which is quite attractive.



Potentilla anserina



Common Tormentil - Common in low vegetation areas nearby Ratho such as Calder Wood, Linhouse Glen, Drumshoreland etc.

Distinctive for its 4 petals (occasionally 5) and stalkless leaves.



Potentilla erecta



Creeping Cinquefoil - In dry, poorly-vegetated areas such as Hillwood Quarry and the canal pathside near the Gogar Burn

Distinctive for its creeping 5-7-part leaves.



Potentilla reptans

Yellow-Flowered Strawberry - A good area near the pathside approaching Kirkliston.

Although its fruit looks like a strawberry, the fruit has a large 'skirt' at its base, seen here.



Potentilla indica

Trailing Tormentil - Perhaps could be spotted closer to Ratho - this was from Dalmeny, a little outside the area.

Notable are the stalked leaves.



Potentilla anglica



Shrubby Cinquefoil - Occasional, resulting from garden throwouts. There are a few near the Climbing Centre carpark edge such as this one.

They can colonise large areas under the right conditions.



Potentilla fruticosa



Marsh Cinquefoil - Not a Ratho plant itself but frequent nearby at Harlaw and in the Pentlands generally where you might visit.



Potentilla palustris



Unspecified - This interesting potentilla was growing wild on Baird Road by the Church Hall but became removed before it could flower.



Potentilla spp



Barren Strawberry - Some grow near the Climbing Centre steps, it is rather frequent nearby eg Clifton, Calder, Gogarburn, Almondell.



Potentilla sterilis

Though superficially a bit like a strawberry, it lacks fruits, and the leaves are small, grey and silver-edged. Wild Strawberry has been placed next for comparison.



Wild Strawberry - Common on difficult soils with low vegetation.

The leaves are fresh green - compare Barren Strawberry above.



Fragaria vesca



Geums

Wood Avens / Herb Bennet - Common



Geum urbanum

The flowers are ordinary-sized, and whilst leaning are not droopy.



Intermediate Avens - Occasionally met, such as behind the Hillwood housing and in Hillwood Quarry, and dotted around further afield nearby Ratho.

Distinctive for either its droopy heads with half-splayed to open flowers or leaning heads with half-splayed flowers, the flowers being larger than Wood Avens and often with a reddish calyx base.



Geum x intermedium



Water Avens - Common in damp places such as the canalside.



Geum rivale

The flowers are clearly droopy and don't splay open except when they are gone over.



Agrimones

Common Agrimony - Mostly alongside the pathway running beside Kirkliston.



Agrimonia eupatoria

The daintier of the two Ratho agrimones, there are subtle differences on close inspection of the fruits, hairs and leaves.



Fragrant Agrimony - Found around and within the Climbing Centre quarry, rather a rarity.

Compared to Common Agrimony above, it is a much more robust plant (see other differences noted there).



Agrimonia procera

